

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /016 R

66604

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P 301452Z MAY 75 ZFF4

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FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE WASHDC INFO USMISSION NATO
FROM LUXEMBOURG 30 MAY 75:

QUOTE UNCLAS LUXEMBOURG 0388

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, LU

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER COMMENTS ON HIS BREAKFAST MEETING WITH
PRESIDENT

INTERVIEWED BY RADIO-TELEVISION-LUXEMBOURG (RTL) IMMEDIATELY
AFTER HIS MAY 29 BREAKFAST MEETING WITH PRESIDENT FORD,
PRIME MINISTER THORN MADE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS:

1. US/NATO: PRESIDENT FORD HAS SUCCESSFULLY CALMED EUROPEAN
FEARS THAT AMERICAN REVERSES IN INDO-CHINA WOULD LEAD TO A
DISENGAGEMENT IN WESTERN EUROPE. THE PRESIDENT HAD INSISTED
THAT NATO IS THE CORNERSTONE OF THE US'S OWN DEFENSE.

2. EC/NATO: A WESTERN EUROPEAN DEFENSE SYSTEM SEPARATE
FROM NATO IS PRESENTLY UNTHINKABLE. THE EC SHOULD GRADUALLY
BEGIN TO DISCUSS DEFENSE ISSUES, BUT POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC
INTEGRATION MUST COME FIRST. WESTERN EUROPE SHOULD ASPIRE
TO BECOME A STRONG SECOND PILLAR OF THE ALLIANCE. THE US
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SHOULD ADMIT THAT THE EC AND NATO ARE COMPLIMENTARY, AND
THAT THE WESTERN EUROPEANS CAN BE EQUALLY COMMITTED TO BOTH
ORGANIZATIONS. SINCE THE FOUR EUROPEAN COUNTRIES
INVOLVED IN THE F-104 REPLACEMENT CONTRACT ARE ALL FULL

MEMBERS OF NATO, FRANCE WILL HAVE TROUBLE SELLING ITS
MIRAGE OVER THE FY-16.

3. GREECE: FRANCE HAS REMAINED LOYAL TO THE POLITICAL
OBLIGATIONS OF NATO BUT GREECE MAY HAVE PROBLEMS IN
FOLLOWING THE SAME PATH. WHILE NOT OVERLY ENTHUSIASTIC
ABOUT THE PROSPECT OF GREECE JOINING THE EC, LUXEMBOURG
WILL NOT VETO A GREEK APPLICATION. THE QUESTION OF
GREEK MEMBERSHIP WILL BE A KEY ISSUE DURING THORN'S EC
PRESIDENCY IN THE PERIOD JANUARY-JUNE 1976. FARKAS
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, FOREIGN RELATIONS, PRESS CONFERENCES, TOSEC
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE125889
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: S/S-O:MTANNER
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750189-1019
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197505104/baaaalfd.tel
Line Count: 68
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 Sep 2003 by MorefiRH>; APPROVED <26 JAN 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 971016
Subject: n/a
TAGS: PFOR, LU, US, XG, (FORD, GERALD R), (THORN, GASTON)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006